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STAT

May 13, 1978

Dear Admiral Turner:

Recently in going through my service record, there were Copies of various assignments and duties given me during my Navy Career and those you assigned aboard the U.S.S. Conquest MSO 488.

Reviewing these items brings back memories of what seems a very short time ago. In this respect I wish to write you before more time passes, say hello and to wish you well.

The enclosed photocopies, one of which is a Copy of duties and assignments performed aboard the Conquest and the other Copy is a Commendation given me by, Lt. Cmdr. Russell Wilson who relieved you as Commanding Officer.

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The Commendation Admiral Turner is sent to show that the Conquest Carried-on from your efforts, becoming one of our top rated minesweepers and I was proud of being a part of that effort.

I recall when first reporting aboard the Conquest, there under-overhaul in San Diego and you took a turn around the ship with me to become acquainted. At the time, the Conquest seemed so small, especially after my last ship, the U.S.S. Bryce Canyon AD 36.

After our tour, you asked me what I thought of the ship? My reply was, that I felt I could tuck her under one arm and walk away. My observation proved deceiving and soon found that although small, the ship was tough and at times, like having a tiger by the tail. From that point on, I began my education as a minesweeper which was contrary to all my previous experience and types of ships.

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3.

Shortly after your departure, the Conquest along with other ships of the division, participated in joint exercise with Canadian sweepers off Long Beach. That fall, we joined the Canadian sweepers in Canada for various exercises that they had set-up. There were various types of moored and fixed obstacles that tone-up are sweeping gear, eliminating all the other sweepers, U.S. and Canadian, except the Conquest.

Since the Conquest was still operational through our — preparation, maintenance and diligence, etc, the inoperative sweepers stayed in port while the Conquest went out for several more days in cold, mist and rain to finish sweeping the field. We did have the satisfaction of being #1 and that we, "could do", instead of "have to".

I recall that on several occasions we rode back and forth to the ship after returning to Long Beach.

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4. Your home was near mine and I believe you lived in Palos Verdes or Rolling Hills. At the time, you drove a sports car with canvas top.

The Conquest was my last ship and duty that I performed. Injuries received in the sinking of the U.S.S. Ommaney Bay CVE-79 on January 4, 1945 in the Sulu Sea enroute to the landings at Lingayen Gulf, Philippines. Few days later as a survivor aboard the battleship, U.S.S. Mississippi, I was again hit by another Kamikaze. Blue injuries had slowly caught up with me and I was physically breaking down, not able to perform at all times and deemed best that I retire.

Captain Wilson held a retirement ceremony on the fantail and very reluctantly, I joined the civilian.

For a while I operated my own business and the fall of 1971, could not physically continue, was totally disabled. The Navy treated me for some time—

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5, Then sent me to the V.A. hospital, Long Beach where I have been an in and out patient under treatment and Continuous follow-up.

Activity is limited, get about with Crutches and a wheelchair, plus the assistance of my wife. I never called her Hugh then Seaman 2/c, but now she is the C.O. and the senior for me.

My next to youngest son - recently passed the various tests and examinations to become an Air Force pilot. I told him he was a traitor, needed someone to take my place. Just the same, I am extremely proud of him and know that he will be an asset to the service

Next month I look forward to a happy occasion in the first reunion of the Comeraw Bay at Sand O'John, Wisconsin. Quite a few of the survivors have been located, with approximately fifty attending. The former Commanding Officer, Captain Howard L. Young, passed

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C. away some years ago, Lawrence the former executive officer, R. Adm. Joseph D. Black, retired, lives in the San Diego Area and have recently Corresponded with him. Did you know Captain Howard. Young or Admiral Black? Joseph D.

Should you come to my area at any time and time permits, I would be extremely happy to see you and to visit the old days would be much brighter.

Ever there is an occasion that you could use the help of a former minesweeper, I shall be proud to come aboard and give you hand.

May I congradulate you in your present assignment and wish you every success.

With Best Regards,
Respectfully,

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